

United States Department of Agriculture



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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO.300-5-55

SUBJECT: LTP – CSP – REVISED INFORMATION ON APPROVING CSP APPLICATIONS

Purpose. To inform employees in 2005 CSP watersheds of the revised national approval process for applications.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005

This bulletin circumvents instructions provided in MN Bulletin 300-5-54 distributed on July 25, 2005.

Yesterday the Secretary of Agriculture announced that over 12,000 applications will be accepted for enrollment into the 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP). This total represents all applications in categories A, B and C-1.

However, the national office has decided to notify approved participants in stages. Effective today, field staff can begin the process of approving CSP contracts by obtaining landowner signatures for applications in categories A only. Applications from other categories are not being approved at this time. The tentative completion date for approving category A applications is August 8th.

Do not notify participants in other categories of their status.

The national office has drafted landowner notification letters (for approval and denial) which will be placed into ProTracts soon. Field staff may use these letters to notify landowners of their program status but need to double check that approvals are only in the categories specified.

After contracts are approved we will immediately begin to issue payments. Attached is a short power point developed by the national office to help explain the next steps of this process. Later this week we will distribute a step by step list of instructions to make CSP payments.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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